

8-10-1879

Letter from Anne Whitney, Belmont, Massachusetts, to Adeline Manning, 1879 August 10

Anne Whitney

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[August]

- Belmont - Sunday ¹⁰ - 79

My Love - This morning -
company & riding took up
the time - & I felt it was
best - to be with another
this P.M., Your letter met
me at the house yesterday
a long dear letter -

It was not until after
my previous writing that the
card came from Mrs. C.
She came from Bourneham
last Tuesday - lunched with
me & returned to Weymouth
the same day - She comes up
again next Tuesday to stay over
night - & it happened in this
wise - I recd a note
from Frank Garrison saying
he was very sorry not
to have found me (when he
called) for that he wanted
to talk with me about the
statue - that he had gathered
some facts etc. & as he was
tired to his desk - if by chance
it was going to remain in town

Some night - I would let him
know he would be very well.
I appointed next Tuesday I
Mrs. Chapman expressing much
curiosity to know what it might
be he had to communicate - I
asked her to come up the same
evening. Miss A. & her sister -
the housekeeper is informed -
are coming tomorrow, so that
if they remain more than
one night; the house will
seem populous again -
I hope to see ~~this week~~ the
greater part of the work
^{this week} done - but the frieze cannot
be put up until next week
when the woman who is to do
it returns from her vacation.

I think my beloved
I shall find you in the
wilderness - the lonely mountain
larns & all those places that
in their wildness suggest a
freedom only limited by natural
law - I mean that my mood
not seldom answers to this
"unchartered freedom" - tho' I
question too if this is the best

thing except when it comes
play² the bare recompense for
that social discipline which
we have grown
tolerant - of bounded laws &
town straight-garden paths.
But I know if we divert
to untamed nature - I mean
are attracted that way - it
is because we have overrefined
& overruined - till the eye is
hungry for large values - &
the heart hungry for that
stronger grasp of life that
seems still to offer in the
wild forces of unreclaimed
nature.

I do not think I am
moved by Mr. Todd's wrongs
to any such question about
the Garrisonian method of
reform as you have. By
his own showing his father
was well worthy of Garrison's
denunciations - You do not
say what the "libel" was.
I suppose he could not tell

Choose one among the lost
against whom to set lance
in rest - he cannot but fly
at all save thro' the one -
& tho' it seem murders -
the individual who is
prostrated has no right
to complain - he should
not have been found in
such a place. Garrison's
aim was to show the world
that men who rode to
luxury & ease over their
own suffred consciences
& thro' the blood & agony
of the weak & innocent
were beguiled with Death
& Hell - ^{with that spect} his words were
strictly true. ^{Monday A.M.} I think
Garrison knew if ever a
man did how to characterize
deeds - & nothing demoralizes
the world like a certain kind
of moral spoon orichalc which
leaves

one in a state of confusion
whether there is any differ^{ence}
between light & dark - To
make the matter more clear
when consciences have become
perverted - instances must
be spotted. - Mrs. Poyser
says - These charitable people
don't know Vrieger from
wine until they have put it
into their own mouths & swallowed
it - When the whole community
is given over to debauchery
of sentiment - nobody has a
chance to be converted in
this way - & the prophet
has to take a desperate
delugment - by the rope of his
neck & stand him in the
circle for just characterization.

Sarah came in last
night - 10 of 10 & Cummins
put a stop to my writing
which I the more submissively
yielded to - that it accorded

also with the promise made
Dyer. Perhaps I have this
morning repeated myself - but
never mind -

Arch thanks you for
the Astronomical Observance
& sends love Dyer & to our
Aunt. To whom also, it -

That must be a glorious
Country where you are & have
for the treeless road, &
I hope we may some day
be with the Hudson together -
I had other things to say
to you but must now think
only of being ready for the
road. Healths are better -
I believe I never felt better
than now. Mother is feeling
good under Dr W. of Camb.
who has mounted guard over
her diet -

Weather glorious but
roads very dry -

Have for the time in mind
for return? Is it altogether
indefinite & dazy?

At all events keep well
mine own - & also it will do
so for your sake if possible.

Boston - The clay keeps
wonderfully clear of mold
& will never again become
the slugged garden it was
bef. you took it in hand.
The only place where it
gathers mold - & that but
little is on the left side of
the statue in the folds - on
the right ^{now} none. Thanks to
your intelligent preservation.

I go out to Belmont at
12 --